



A few minutes ago, a House-Senate Conference Committee approved the Iraq Accountability bill about the legislation:

TALKING POINTS ON IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BILL

America's Commitment to Iraq is not Open-Ended

- After more than four years, thousands of lives lost and billions of dollars spent, we must demand an open-ended commitment to keep American troops in Iraq indefinitely until there is a responsible end to the war consistent with our national security needs. An overwhelming majority of Congress and many retired military officers support our plan for a new direction in Iraq.

New Direction for Iraq

- The agreement reached between the House and Senate provides more funding to support our troops and veterans, while forging a new direction in Iraq. The President should sign the bill to our troops.

No More Blank Checks for the President and Iraqi Government Must be Held Accountable

- The bill will hold the President accountable for meeting his own military reading of the situation. The Iraqi Government will also be held accountable for meeting political, economic and security needs established by the Bush Administration and the Iraqis themselves.

Timeline to Bring our Troops Home Safely and Responsibly Beginning This Year

- In the bill, the President must determine that substantial progress is being made in meeting reconstruction benchmarks by July 2007. If the President cannot certify progress by July with a goal of being completed within 180 days. If the President can certify progress, redeployment must begin by October 1, with goal of completion within 180 days.

Debate is helpful and "Clock is Ticking"

- Secretary of Defense Robert Gates himself reiterated last week in his trip to Iraq that the debate is helpful. He delivered the message to the Iraqi government that the "clock is ticking."

Troops Funded Into July

- Pentagon confirms Congressional Research Service report saying the White House claim that the funding for the troops is false. "The Pentagon says it has enough money to pay for the troops despite warnings from the White House that troops are being harmed by Congressional funding." [AP, 4/19/07]

